J 4/22/50

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

November first, 1920, a small band of Saints met to organize this Assembly. Driven together by "like precious faith" they sought to establish a church along Apostolic lines of preaching and practice.

The thirteen charter members included Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Williamson, Mr. and Mrs. George Anthony, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Coburn, Mr. and Mrs. Irle Humphrey, Miss Laura Rupp, Miss Anna Coordes, Mrs. Susan King, Mrs. Clem Thomas, Mrs. Mary Smyers. Their first meeting place was at 1120 Sixth Avenue.

In 1921, the Congregation moved to 511½ Ohio Street, and outgrowing that in 1924 they rented the hall over the People's State Bank in Twelve Points. Revival flames were fanned and the crowds came to see and stayed to experience Pentecost.

Finally the present location was secured. The old Barker home was converted into a church and dedicated April 17, 1927. It was used until August, 1949, when demolition began to make way for the present structure.

Rev. Williamson served the Congregation until age decreed retirement in 1943. At 82 years he is still with us, beloved and esteemed. Rev. Earl Bond succeeded him for a three-year period when he accepted a call to Superintend the Ohio District. He has just answered the last call: Heaven and reward! Rev. W. C. Richardson ministered here for the next three years and is now pastoring in Goshen, Ind.

DEDICATION SERVICES—SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1950

9:30 A. M.—Sunday School for all.

10:30 A. M.—Congregational singing. Prayer by Rev. J. G. Williamson. Music by Fox Party Members. Address by Honorable Mayor Ralph Tucker. Solo by Mrs. D. L. Sanders. Music by Fox Party Members. Special offering for new building. Message by Willard Cantelon. Dedicatory prayer by Supt. Roy Wead.

2:30 and 7:30 P. M.—We join the Assembly of God Churches of this vicinity in the Great Fox Party campaign at the Armory Auditorium.

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Community Affairs File

Ts MAR 31 1985

Churches (WI)

Pentecostal churches meeting here this week

A youth march and a religious cantata are two of the highlights of a gathering of the Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith sponsored by Bethlehem Temple Church in Indiana State University's Hulman Center beginning Wednesday and ending Saturday.

The first two days of the convention will be devoted to business of the Tri-State Council, which convenes three times a year at different site. Among the business will be meetings on home missions and foreign fields, a general session, Bible classes and worship services.

Elder Ivan Gordon, vice president of the youth council, said the march will begin on Good Friday from the parking lot of City Hall and move to Ninth Street and Wabash Avenue, where it will turn north and end at Hulman Center.

"The purpose of the march," said Gordon, "is to generate enthusiasm among our young people and to share a love of Christ." He said he has hopes for about 500 participants in the march.

Gordon said the last two days of the convention will be devoted to activities of the youth council.

Another Good Friday event will include an official opening address to the youth convention by Mayor P. Pete Chalos following the march. Following that, seminars will be conducted until 4 p.m. There will be a evening worship service on the theme, "Facing the Last of the Last Days," which will have Elder Nehemiah Smith of Detroit as guest speaker.

That will be followed by a special midnight service featuring preaching, singing and special guest choirs.

On Saturday, the youth department of the Bethlehem Temple will present a cantata in Hulman Center titled "His Last Days." It was written by Dallas Holm and will be directed by June Gordon, chairwoman of the youth department.

One reason the convention is scheduled in Hulman Center is because the delegations have grown beyond the space at the local church, Gordon said.

The Tri-State Council is comprised of three states — Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. The council is headed by Pastor Jester Purnell, minister at Bethlehem Temple.

JESTER PURNELL
Host for conference

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PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH

Youth convention continues

Ts APR 6 1985

Churches (W.C)

By Charles J. Maloof
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

More than 500 people attending the annual youth convention of the Tri-State Council of the Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith Association will continue sharing the Christian experience today.

With the convention theme of "Facing the Last of the Last Days," youth vice chairman Elder Ivan R. Gordon, a Bethlehem Temple member, said the topics of discussion encouraged young persons to face pressures and problems and successfully conquer them through Jesus Christ.

Visitors from Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky attended several seminars Friday that dealt with family life, understanding the Bible, choosing a mate and overcoming peer pressure.

Attending his first convention, Lewis Cunningham, 25, Terre Haute, said he was seeking to get "closer to God" and strengthen his religious foundation.

Also at his initial event was the Rev. Charles Beard, pastor of Clinton True Gospel Tabernacle Church. "I've become stronger in the Lord through the seminars, because you're never too smart to learn," he said.

"It's a spiritual uplifting to those who come and they will be a better person in their community," said John Lewis, Terre Haute, who was attending with two of his daughters.

And Terre Haute's Jerri Allen thinks the Christian teachings offer an alternative for today's youth. "Some persons seem to be groping and looking for something. By finding their life in Christ, we will have a better community, society and world," she said.

Gwendolyn Jones, 31, Cincinnati, said she enjoys the fellowship and magnification of God that is prevalent at the convention. "We come together as one collectively and learn what is necessary to do the will of God," she said. "I attend a lot of conventions and His word just seems to get better."

Another Cincinnati resident, Robin Cephas, 31, said the spiritual "nourishment" she receives encourages and uplifts her in the faith. "We are meeting as sisters and brothers, because we all have one Father," she said.

Bethlehem Temple Church, 1432 S. 13th St., is host for the event, and most of the activities are in Hulman Center.

Seminars, guest speakers and choirs and special services will conclude today's agenda, Gordon said.

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First Assembly of God - 13th and Lafayette

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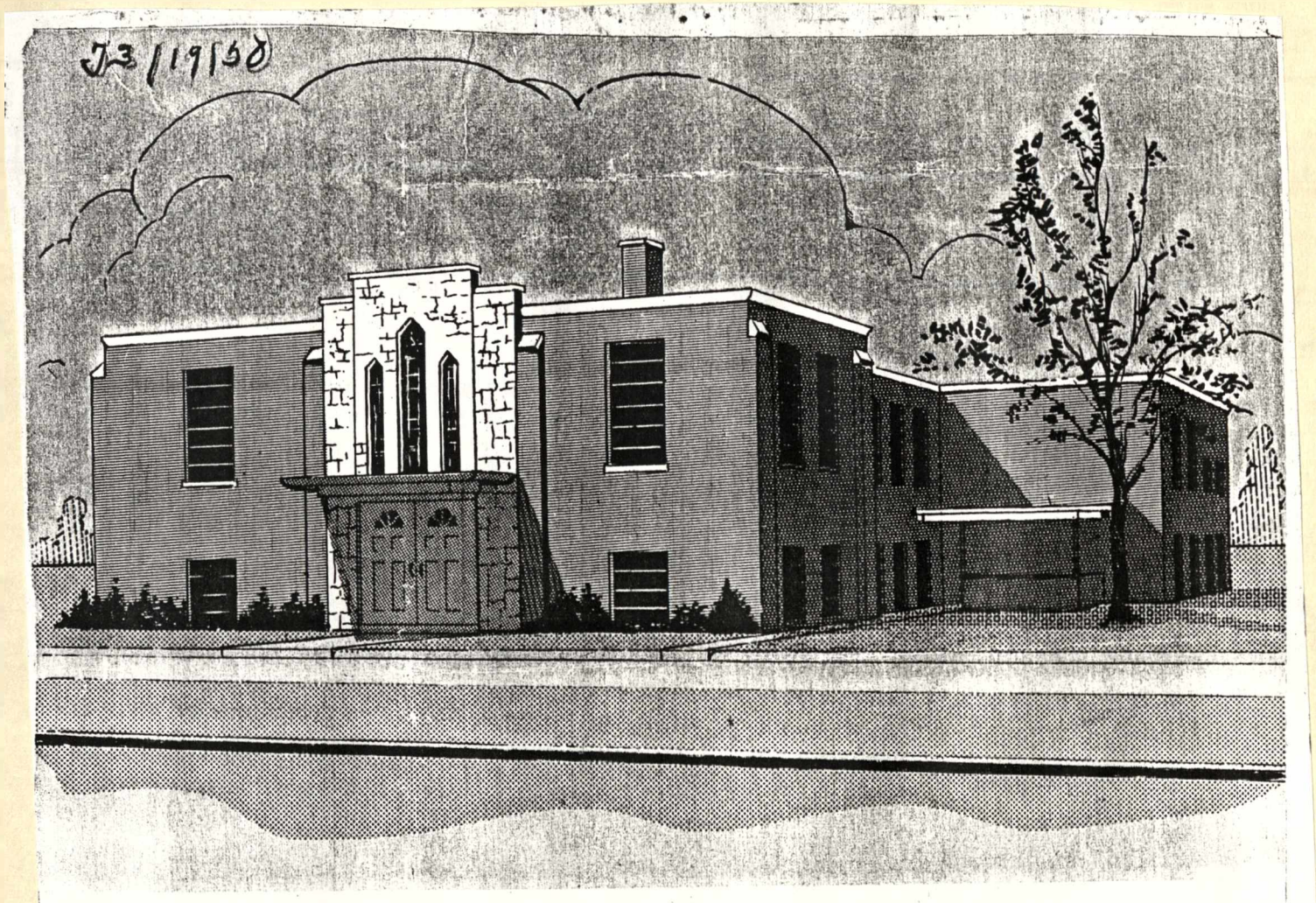

NEW NORTH SIDE CHURCH EDIFICE—One of Terre Haute's newest and most modernly designed church buildings is the First Assembly of God Church, Thirteenth street and Lafayette avenue. Excavation began in September of last year and the structure will be formally dedicated Easter Sunday.

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Community Affairs File

East Glenn - Assembly of God

Church to replace old drive-in

V Churches (Lay)

Ts MAR 1 2 1988

By Jan Chait
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

The East Glenn Assembly of God plans to build a new church on the site of the former Corral Drive-in Theater in Seelyville, associate pastor Keith Burrows said Friday.

Burrows said the 12-acre property was purchased in early January after several months of negotiations with United Artists, and workers began demolishing the screen and removing speakers earlier this week.

A tripling in the number of people attending Sunday morning services within the past year led to the church's decision to buy the former drive-in.

"We have close to 400 [congregants] on Sunday," Burrows said. "We went to two Sunday morning services this past year."

Burrows said East Glenn Assembly of God hasn't actively sought congregants. "We just let God do what he wants to do," he said. "It's word of mouth. People are coming and miracles are taking place. People are walking in with tumors and walking out without them . . . These are things that are substantiated by the doctors."

Shear numbers of people and a lack of parking spaces is stretching the current building past its limits, Burrows said.

"Our current building holds, comfortably, 350 people [and] there are no parking facilities. We've had people actually come out and not find a place to park and leave."

Plans are to build a structure that will seat approximately 800 people and with the capability to double that capacity.

Also, Burrows said, "We're looking at the property not just as a church, but as a place where other needs can be met, such as a gymnasium." Future plans could also include elderly housing and a day school.

But, he added, "Right now, our obviously main objective is a building to hold the congregation."

Burrows said the church expects to have sufficient funds by Easter Sunday to pay for the property with enough left over to start on the church itself.

"If things get rolling, within a year we should be able to walk into a new building," he said. "We're excited. The Lord's been good to us. We're simply letting God have his way and that's as plain and simple as I can make it."

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Community Affairs File

Churches (Ft. W) Community Affairs File

New church showcases classic, colonial design

Weekend Messenger 1/9/83

"We wanted something different," Pastor Paul Bryant said. The congregation of First Assembly of God Church wanted their new church to look like a traditional church.

The new sanctuary with the colonial design on North Seventh Street is rapidly approaching completion as carpets are laid. The first service is only a few weeks away, five years after the project was a mere idea.

The pastor knows of no other church in the city with a colonial design. The church is flanked with a chapel on the north side and offices on the south side.

The congregation has been cramped at its current site at 2210 N. 13th St. The members simply outgrew it. Parking is almost nonexistent. Only one house stood close when the church was built in 1948. Now the church stands surrounded.

The new building has 27,000 square feet as opposed to 13,000 square feet. More importantly, the new church is built on a single floor to eliminate steps for the elderly and handicapped.

The pie-shaped auditorium can seat 1,200 persons. The farthest seat is situated only 37 feet from the pulpit, the pastor noted. He noted a pecularity about his flock. "They fill up front seats first here. It's the most unique thing I've seen."

Construction began in earnest in early 1982. The congregation approved the colonial design with a brick frame and wood trim. The focal point of the architecture is the steeple which rises 77 feet from the ground. It's a church which looks like a church.

The new church demonstrated the "real resolve" of the congregation. The project, including some 15 acres of property, cost about $1.5 million. The pastor feels the congregation was harmonious in its support of the new building.

Like the steeple rising high off the ground, the future of the First Assembly of God Church seems to be pointing upward.

The congregation at First Assembly of God Church hopes to move to their new sanctuary by the end of January. The spacious structure more than doubles the size of the old church.

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Churches (W. Assembly of God)

Finding new friends

Local church puts others needs before theirs

T S JUN 6 1985 Churches (W)

High ground

Mrs. Yates, known in area churches as author and lecturer, writes about "practical religion."

By Madonna Yates
Special to The Tribune-Star

For the past three years, members of Home Avenue Apostolic Assembly have saved and sacrificed to cover expenses for the construction of a new church building. Nearly all churches do that. But the unusual part of this story is the church's location.

Seven church members and their pastor, the Rev. Phillip Goldsberry, flew to the Dominican Republic, travelled across the island, crossed a deep river gorge on a rickety plank bridge and made a 45-minute climb straight up the mountain road. In the remote village of Balabas, with 150 grateful people packed inside, and another group of 75 crowded outside the windows, they dedicated the newly completed church last month.

"On behalf of Home Avenue Apostolic Assembly we officially declare the church at Balabas as our sister church," said Pastor Goldsberry, who presented a large photograph of the Terre Haute congregation.

Pastor Carlos, who was meeting his benefactors for the first time, could not find enough words to express the gratitude of his people. Dominican Christians had decorated the new building with flowers and fashioned a welcoming sign with cut-out letters expressing their love and appreciation.

The Dominicans in Balabas are farmers living in little frame and thatch huts scattered across the mountainsides. They walk long distances for water, and very few have access to, or can afford an electric light in their homes. Not many children are lucky enough to attend school. The country is hard-hit by inflation, and the price of flour, cooking oil and other basic foods has tripled in the past year, creating hunger and hardship.

Villagers don't understand their country's difficult negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, but they know all too well what has happened to their peso. In the last 18 months the buying power of peso has fallen by one third. The financially-strapped Dominican government has imposed austerity measures that have caused nearly everything to go up in price while wages remained flat.

Three years ago Home Avenue Apostolic Assembly heard of the little group of Christians in Balabas from missionary Jerry Burns who was home on a furlough. Villagers were meeting in each other's homes for worship and Bible study. There was no church or community building of any kind for many miles. Even though the Terre Haute church was already committed to the support of 15 missionaries around the world, as well as helping with a Christian school in Haiti, they rose to the challenge. Now the little church in Balabas stands as a visible sign to the community that North American Christians really care about their needs.

"If you fill this building to capacity and need more room, we'll build one twice as large," Goldsberry said.

One woman standing outside the new building selling a hot bean drink told the visitors, "I have prayed and dreamed for years to have a church here. We rented a little room for awhile but couldn't afford to pay for the electric light." She told of carrying her beanpot to town, boiling a mixture of bean broth, cocoanut, sugar and spices over an open fire, and selling it for a profit of a cent per cup to raise money for the church. Tears streaming, she tried to express her appreciation to the Terre Haute delegation with words and hugs.

Church members Mary Fell, Betty Rogers, Tracy Higgins, Sherri Marshall, Jeff Goldsberry and Ramona Cooper felt a profound impact on their own lives as the group travelled around the countryside visiting sugar cane camps, local pastors and churches. "We would drive up unannounced, and the pastor and his family would come rushing out to meet us with smiles and greetings. I could see the wife looking around to see if things were in order; and they always were," Pastor Goldsberry said. The visitors would be invited in to have Dominican coffee or a lukewarm Coke. There were many opportunities for Goldsberry to preach since Dominican Pentecostal churches have services every night.

"Maybe we spend too much time preaching on Ezekiel's visions and things like the prophetic meaning of the seven churches of Asia," Goldsberry said. "The Dominicans like sermons that are true to the Bible, simple and to the point. They wanted messages directly related to their lives. Perhaps that's where North American churches miss the point. Our lives are terribly complicated. The Apostle Paul talked about not losing the simplicity that is in Christ Jesus. And Jesus

HOME AVENUE APOSTOLIC CHURCH PENTECOSTAL

Community Affairs File

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Happy: Residents of Balabas surround new church.

told us to become as little children to be able to accept and understand our faith."

At the Bible School in Santo Domingo, Pastor Goldsberry addressed the students. Knowing they must work days to be able to attend classes at night, he shared with them his own feelings of inadequacy upon graduation from Bible college and how God had opened doors of opportunity for service. The young men and women began to pray and rededicate their lives to serve their people.

The group visited Haiti and saw the Christian school their church has helped support through the years. One hot morning after a heavy rain they walked down a narrow street in a Haitian village. Overflow sewage water flowed down the ditch. Women selling vegetables sat with their feet in the water to keep cool. Children, scrawny dogs and chickens were running everywhere. Heat, flies, fatigue and culture shock caught up with the group; and several had tears in their eyes as they looked around at the simple, "carefree" life of the Haitians.

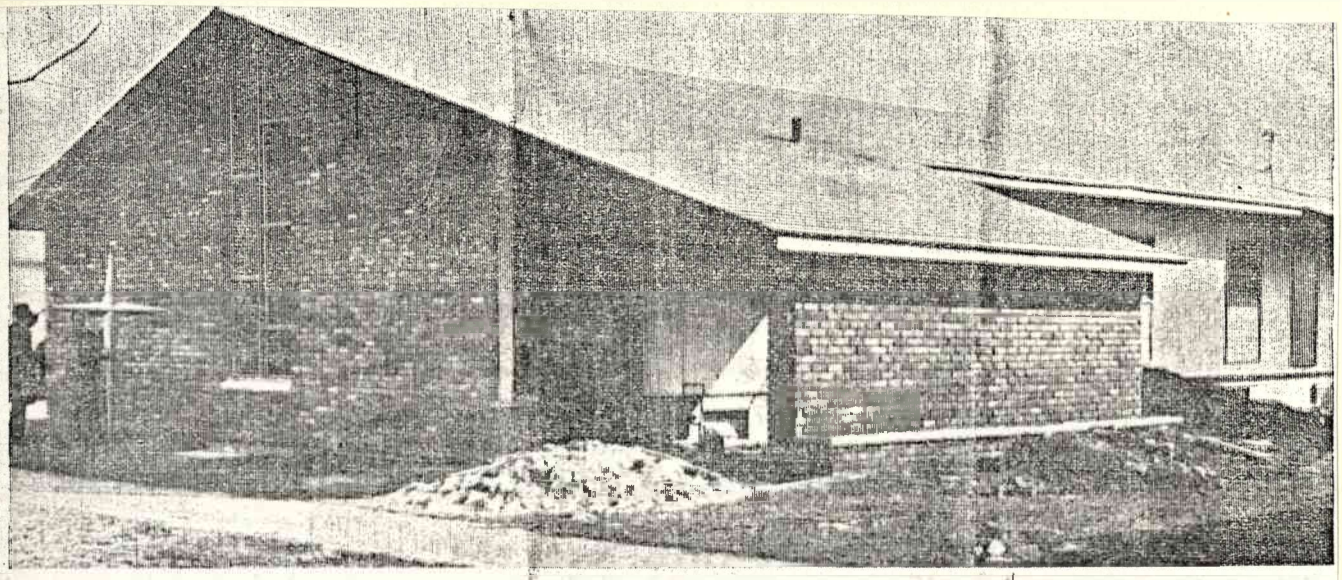
"We have been affected in every dimension of our lives," Goldsberry said. "After seeing people eat beans and rice for a steady diet and holding children that have distended bellies and discolored hair from malnutrition, I am less concerned about whether my food is overseasoned! I am thankful to be sitting at the table with my family."

Back at home, Danielle Goldsberry, age 4, asked her father many questions about the Dominican children. "Honey, there are children who would love to have what you are eating for lunch," he told her. "I was afraid she might say 'send it to them.' Instead, she began to eat slowly and thoughtfully, tasting each bite as if it were a new food."

The missionary who hosted the group told them they would return home and look at their possessions and ask themselves, "Do I really need all this stuff?" And that's exactly what happened.

Goldsberry was profoundly impressed by watching people experience joy in the midst of poverty. "When they come into the worship services to sing, pray and hear the preaching of the Word, their faces reflect an inner strength and motivation to live for God. Real, internal joy cannot be found in things. It is a state of the heart."

Churches (W.V.)
Home Ave. Pentecostal Ch.



NEW CHURCH—The newly constructed Home Avenue United Pentecostal Church, located at 65 Home Avenue. The congregation will hold their first worship service in the new structure on Easter Sunday. Chuck Strausburg Photo.

Hold Easter Services in New Church

T.H. Churches
T.H. Trib 3/25/67

The congregation of the Home Avenue Penecostal Church will hold their first worship services in their newly constructed church, located at 65 Home Avenue on Easter Sunday.

The church was organized and first service held June 6, 1955 in the basement structure. Original trustees were the pastor, the Rev. G. E. Switzer, Adrien Corenflos and Brad Whitford.

The basement structure was known as the Bible Fellowship Church. Inc., and was purchased by the Penecostal group.

The congregation met in the basement until December 1966 when ground was broken for the additional square footage needed and the new auditorium was completed in about three months.

The work was accomplished with the help of the Rev. Charles Benninghoff, pastor. United Penecostal Church at Clinton, and the Rev. Robert Johnson, pastor of the United Penecostal Church at Rockville.

The old structure consisted of an auditorium, men and women's rest rooms, nursery, furnace rooms. The new part includes a carport, foyer, measuring 32 by 7 feet; a 32 by 62 foot auditorium, office and dressing room.

Services each week include Sunday school at 10 a.m.; morning worship at 11 a.m., and Sunday night services at 7:30 p.m.

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PENTECOSTAL - VICTORY TEMPLE

T S JUN 4 1984

Community Affairs File
Churches (W.V)

Victory Temple Church also is mini-soup kitchen

By Kathy Gurchiek
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

The words goodwill, service, worship and prayer arch above the huge pipe organ inside Victory Temple Church. Those are not idle words.

While worship and prayer are a part of any religious community, members of Victory Temple at 634 Fourth Ave. also practice goodwill and service by offering free breakfast and dinner to persons attending services.

The aroma of meatloaf and macaroni and cheese wafted from a downstairs room Sunday where the hot afternoon meal was served to children and adults.

"We're like a mini-soup kitchen," said Shirley Davis, wife of pastor Elder John Davis. Breakfast from 9:30 to 10 a.m. and a snack at 11:30 a.m. sandwich the 10 a.m. Sunday service, programs which started January 1983 when the church opened. Serving dinner after noon Sunday services began in October 1983.

The idea primarily was to build Sunday school enrollment in the church, which was started by the pastor, his wife and mother.

"Lots of times adult visitors do not stay for dinner, unless they are in the habit of doing so," Davis said. Most persons attending breakfast, dinner or snack time are children, she said.

"They don't waste it," she said of the various kinds of food served.

"Seems like they sit better in church" and are more attentive once they have food in their bellies, said Davis. Many are not used to coming to church, she said.

Initially the church began serving refreshments such as doughnuts and cold cereal after Sunday school.

When the snack and breakfast started, it was paid for by two or three people. Most of the commodities now are provided by Title 1, which also provides canned food for soup kitchens, and the Catholic Charities Food Bank. Meat and fresh fruit and vegetables are provided by the church.

In addition, a full-course meal comprised of a sandwich, fruit and soup or other nutritious dishes is served children attending Vacation Bible School, which begins this month. Last year there were 100 Bible school students. Double that amount is expected this year.

Response to the church meals has been good, said Davis.

"We service about 60 to 70 people each Sunday. They eat as much as they want, so they get second helpings." Four church women take turns volunteering their time to work in the kitchen.

It costs about $200 monthly to serve breakfast, snacks and dinner.

"A lot of it comes out of the pastor's pocket," because it is difficult for church members to assume the cost, Davis said. The church has an active membership of 25 persons. Cups, paper plates and similar kitchen items are costly, but local businesses help out.

"We've had a good response from businesses" which donate such items, she said. "They don't have any ties with the church. That's the surprising thing."

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Assembly of God

WTH Assembly of God In 55th Year of Service

Churches (WH) Mackville Gazette 1/27/83

by Tammie Edington

In the late spring of 1925, Rev. Thomas Paino and his wife Lydia, from Danville, Illinois, came to West Terre Haute and held a tent revival on the southeast corner of 7th and National Avenue. Rev. Paino, formerly of the Catholic Church, had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in 1919.

The meetings drew many people, which prompted the Painos to continue their ministry in town. Two other locations where services were held was a tent erected on the north side of National, east of 5th Street, and a building on the side of National between 5th and 6th streets.

Upon Paino's departure in 1927, Rev. Archie Brown, a resident of the community, stepped forward to lead the church. Rev. Brown was formerly a member of the Holiness Church, and had also received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Under Rev. Brown's leadership the church became known as the Full Gospel Pentecostal Mission, and applied for affiliation with the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Missouri. This affiliation was granted on August 15, 1928 and the church became the sixth Assembly of God in the state of Indiana.

In 1929 Rev. Brown left to pioneer a church in Attica and other ministers led the congregation until he returned in 1931. These men included: Reverends Bettis, Bird, Duncan, Frank, Galbraith and Short. The congregation also met in several locations during this time. These included: The Palace Theater on the north side of National, west of 5th Street; the northwest corner of 6th and National, referred to as the Berry Building and occupied by Simonson Grocery; and a building on the south side of National between 3rd and 4th streets, also occupied by a grocery store.

Upon Brown's return, the people of the church desired to have a permanent meeting place. Alonzo Brown, uncle of Archie Brown, donated land he owned at 708 National Avenue. During construction the congregation met in a tent on the north side of National between 6th and 7th streets, west of the Berry Building.

In 1933 the church was completed. It was a one room brick building with an aisle running down the middle of two sections of opera-style seating. In 1937 sunday school classrooms were also built onto the back of the building.

In 1938 Rev. Brown left to pioneer a church in another area of the state. Rev. Campbell and Rev. Skondeen served in succession during his short absence.

(1st in a series)

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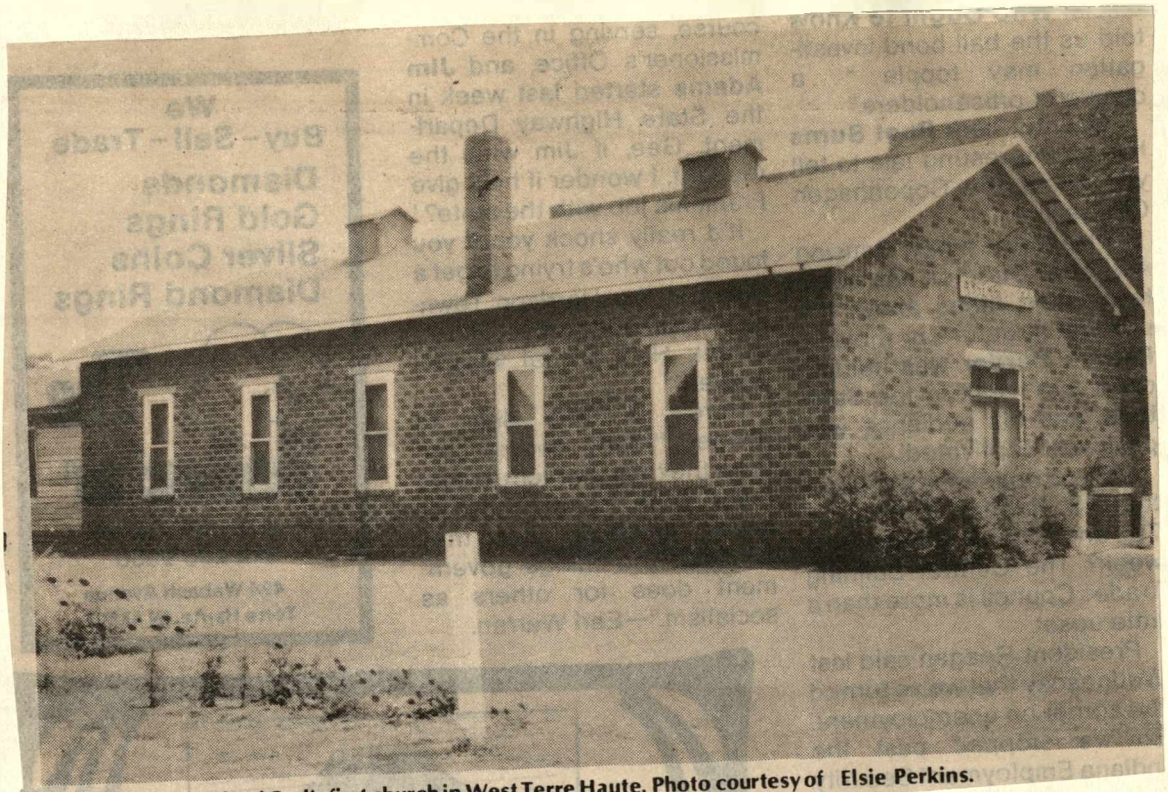

The Assembly of God's first church in West Terre Haute. Photo courtesy of Elsie Perkins.

West Terre Haute Assembly of God

(Churches Ulpa) (W V)

assembly of God

Part II

3-23-83

by Tammie Edington

Mackaville Gazette

Growth continued through the 1940's at the Assembly of God Church and a larger building was needed. The congregation did not want to move from the present location, so plans were made to build a new church on the same ground. While the church was being constructed, the congregation held services in the Valley High School Gymnasium on West Johnson Avenue. The first service was held in the basement of the new church on November 12, 1950. On February 11, 1951, dedication services were held for the newly completed Assembly of God Church. Special speakers for the services were the Rev. Roy Wead, State Superintendent of Indiana for the Assemblies of God, and the Rev. Thomas Paino, then of Indianapolis, who held the first tent meeting in 1925.

In July of 1956, the Rev. Archie Brown retired from the pastorate. He had a radio broadcast many years following his retirement. He and his wife, Stella, now reside in rural West Terre Haute.

The Rev. Lewis Clifton, a 26 year old man from Whiting, was elected the next pastor. On April 9, 1957, the church acquired three plots of land adjacent to and west of the church. The two plots nearest the church were converted into a parking lot. A house located on the farthest west plot became the parsonage. Clifton and his family were the first to live in the parsonage near the church. The former parsonage was at 119 North 6th street. Clifton resigned the church to pastor a church at Clay City.

In the same month of the departure by the Cliftons, the Rev. Fletcher Duncan was elected as the third pastor of the church. During Duncan's pastorate, the inside of the main sanctuary was remodeled. A two foot high paneled, arc-shaped wall was built to encase the platform, organ and piano, interrupted by two entry ways onto the platform. A communion table was placed in front of this wall. The wall behind the choir expanse was paneled and a wooden cross was placed in front of a multi-colored glass window, which illuminates at night. A new pulpit was also placed on the platform. Double glass doors were installed to replace the wooden ones, at the entrance to the foyer and sanctuary. In addition to these interior improvements, a ramp was installed on the exterior at the west entrance. A plot of land and a small building on the land was also acquired in January of 1964.

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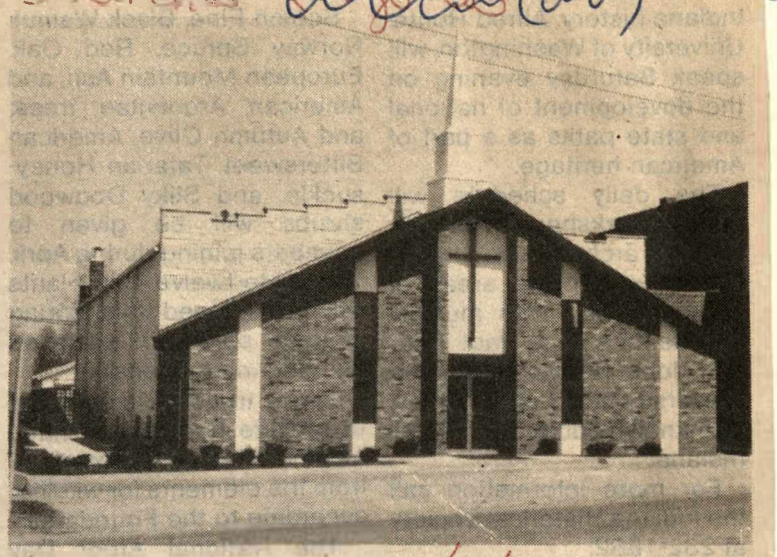
Churches WV

Assembly of God

Assembly of God Church History

CONCLUSION OF A SERIES

Churches Assembly of God (WV)



Macksville Gazette 4/20/83

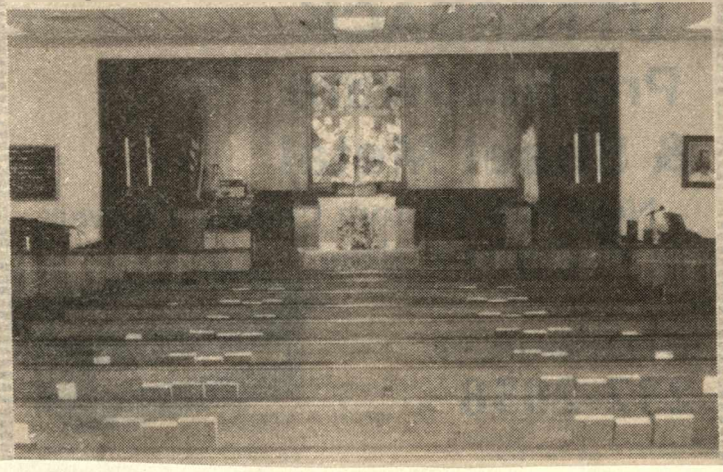
Rev. John Smith of Crawfordsville became pastor of the Assembly of God Church in October 1964 and Rev. Duncan went on the evangelistic field for eight years, until his health deteriorated causing him to retire to his home in Linton, Indiana. He died on December 26, 1975 at the age of 74. Rev. Smith and his family pastored for seven years. During this time the opera-style seats were removed and wooden pews with gold padded seats replaced them. Red carpet was also placed at the entrance of the sanctuary, down the two aisles which now separated the auditorium into three sections, into the altar area and onto the platform. A new ceiling, lights and air conditioning were also installed.

Rev. Smith, a talented carpenter, made many improvements on the parsonage. These included an additional room, enlargement of the master bedroom and remodeling of the kitchen. A fence was also installed around the back yard.

In the basement of the church two classrooms were joined, paneled and carpeted, creating a chapel for use by the youth of the church. The small building which was located on the land acquired in 1964, was converted into a annex and evangelist's quarters. A 10 passenger van was also purchased.

In June 1971 Rev. Smith resigned to become the minister of New Life Assembly of God Church in Indianapolis, where he currently pastors.

Rev. James Hilburn and his wife became the new pastors. The Hilburns came from the state of Texas. In 1972 the church obtained a plot of land east and adjacent to the church. This included a two story building with a full basement. This was remodeled and became a new annex with a fully equipped kitchen. The former annex was torn down and the area used for a parking lot. The Hilburns left in June 1974 and were on the evangelistic field for two years, had a four year pastorate in Minden, Louisiana, and are presently pastoring First Assembly of God Church in Lancaster, Texas.



by Tammy Edington

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